



U.S. Department of Justice

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MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CORRUPTION IN CONNECTION WITH IRONWORKERS UNION PENSION PLANS

ROCKFORD -- PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, J. D. NICHOLS, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Region of the United States Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General, Office of Labor Racketeering and Fraud Investigations, and KENNETH M. BAZAR, Regional Director of the Chicago Regional Office of the United States Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration, today made the following announcement:

MICHAEL LINDER, 59 (DOB: 8/14/45), Crete, Illinois, President of Joseph/Anthony and Associates, Inc. ("Joseph/Anthony"), pleaded guilty today in Rockford federal court to giving Harley Davidson motorcycles to two union pension plan officials in Rockford and Chicago because of the officials' duties as trustees and plan administrators concerning union pension funds.

In pleading guilty, Linder admitted that on December 23, 1998, he purchased two 1999 Harley Davidson motorcycles for over \$19,000 each at a Harley Davidson dealership in Manteno, Illinois. Between that day and January 4, 1999, Linder gave, according to the plea, one motorcycle to Fred Schreier, 58, Willow Springs, Illinois. Schreier was then the President of Machinery Movers Local 136 ("Local 136"). Local 136 was a part of the International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers, and was located in River Grove, Illinois. Further, Schreier was a trustee and fiduciary for two pension funds of Local 136 that had entered into administrative services agreements with Joseph/Anthony. Under those agreements, the Local 136 Pension Funds paid Joseph/Anthony to provide benefit plan services. Linder admitted that he gave the motorcycle to Schreier because of Schreier's duties concerning the pension funds.

Linder further admitted in the plea agreement that between December 23, 1998, and January 15, 1999, he gave the second motorcycle to Thomas C. Kisting, 53, Rockford. According to the plea agreement, Kisting was the business manager of Ironworkers Local 498, located in Rockford, Illinois, and acted as the Plan Administrator and as an agent for two of Local 498's pension funds. Both pension funds had entered into administrative services agreements with Joseph/Anthony under which the Local 498 Pension Funds each

paid Joseph/Anthony to provide benefit plan services. Linder admitted that he gave the motorcycle to Kisting because of Kisting's duties concerning the pension funds.

Sentencing for Linder will be conducted on March 11, 2005, at 1:30 p.m. Linder faces up to 6 years of imprisonment and a fine of up to \$500,000. His actual sentence will be determined by the United States District Court, guided by the United States Sentencing Guidelines.

Kisting was previously found guilty on September 10, 2004, by a federal jury after a four-day trial in federal court in Rockford, of receiving the 1999 Harley Davidson motorcycle because of Kisting's actions, decisions and other duties relating to the pension funds of the Ironworkers Local 498. Sentencing of Kisting is set for December 23, 2004, at 9:00 a.m.

Schreier pleaded guilty to receiving his 1999 Harley Davidson motorcycle because of Schreier's actions, decisions and other duties relating to the pension funds of the Machinery Movers Local 136. Sentencing for Schreier is set for February 2, 2005, at 1:30 p.m.

The case was investigated by the Chicago offices of the Department of Labor, Office of Labor Racketeering and Fraud Investigations and Employee Benefits Security Administration. The case is being prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorney JOHN G. McKENZIE.

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